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Our Ref.: 408.014-CON

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
MAGDALENA et al
Serial No.:
Filed: Concurrently Herewith
For: FRAGMENTS...COMPLEX

: Examiner: D. Johannsen
: Group: 1634
: 600 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10016
February 28, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, insert

--P₁RIOR APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application
Serial No. 09/242,588 filed May 20, 1999 which is a 371 of
PCT/FR97/01483 filed August 12, 1997. --

Page 10, after line 13, insert the following new paragraph:

--The vectors I-1765 and I-1766 have both been deposited on
August 7, 1996 at the CNCM (Collection Nationale de Cultures de
Microorganismes, Institute Pasteur, 25 Rue du Docteur Roux, F-75724
Paris, Cedex 15, France (under the Budapest Treaty). --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1 and add the following claims.

--28. A fragment of a nucleic acid specific to mycobacteria of
M. tuberculosis complex having a nucleotide sequence selected from